(a) whether it is a fact that India and Italy have recently signed agreements in the field of tourism;

(b) if so, the details of the agreements; and

(c) the terms of agreements signed by two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) India has signed a bilateral agreement with Italy on 26th June, 2000 to encourage cooperation in the field of tourism. It provides for exchange of information on the characteristics of the tourism market, experience in the field of management of hotels, exchange of professionals for tourism training and development of tourism promotion and publicity. It lays emphasis on exchange of information along with exploring opportunities for cooperation if any other area of mutual interest in the field of tourism. The agreement was signed on mutually agreed terms, beneficial to both the countries.

Central help for development of tourist spots

4301. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many important tourist spots in the country have not been developed due to resource crunch faced by the States; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to identify such tourist spots and provide funds for developing them to attract more tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRrMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Identification, Development and promotion of tourism destinations/sites is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Tourism under its scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development of Tourist Circuits and Destinations has been assisting State Governments based on the project proposals received from the State Governments, merit of the proposal,/nter-se-priority and availability of funds.

Arrangements for 2010 Commonwealth Games

4302. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state: